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SAMWELL, D.

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N A R R A T I V E

OF THE

D E A T H

OF

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED SOME

PARTICLULARS,

LIFE AND CHARACTER.

. A N D

O B S E R V A T I O N S

RESPECTING THE

INTRODUCTION

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V E N E R E A L D I S E A S E

INTOTHE

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

BY DAVID SAMWELI,



PREFACE.

To those who have perused the account of the last voyage to the Pacific Ocean, the following sheets may, at first fight, appear superfluous. The author, however, being of opinion, that the event of Captain Cook's death has not yet been fo explicitly related as the importance of it required, trusts that this Narrative will not be found altogether a repetition of what is already known. At the fame time, he wishes to add his humble testimony to the merit of the account given of this transaction by Captain King. Its brevity alone can afford an excuse for this publication, the object of which is to give a more particular relation of that unfortunate affair, which he finds is in general but imperfectly understood. He thinks himself warranted in saying this, from having frequently observed, that the public opinion seemed to attribute the loss of Captain Cook's life, in some measure, to rashness or too much confidence on his fide; whereas nothing can be more ill-founded or unjust. It is, therefore, a duty which his friends owe to his character, to have the whole affair candidly and fully related, whatever facts it may involve, that may appear of a disagreeable nature to individuals.



viduals. The author is confident, that if Captain King could have forefeen, that any wrong opinion respecting Captain Cook, would have been the confequence of omitting fome circumftances relative to his death; the goodnatured motive that induced him to be filent, would not have stood a moment in competition with the superior call of justice to the memory of his friend. This publication, he is fatisfied, would not have been disapproved of by Captain King, for whose memory he has the highest efteem, and to whose friendship he is under many obliga-He is fanguine enough to believe, that it will ferve to remove a supposition, in this single instance, injurious to the memory of Captain Cook, who was no less distinguished for his caution and prudence, than for his eminent abilities and undaunted resolution.

The late appearance of this Narrative has been owing to the peculiar fituation of the writer, whose domestic residence is at a great distance from the metropolis, and whose duty frequently calls him from home for several months together. He has the pleasure of adding, that, in publishing the following account of Captain Cook's death, he acts in concurrence with the opinion of some very respectable persons.



1. 2 Lounker 1786.

NARRATIVE

OF THE

D E A T H

OF

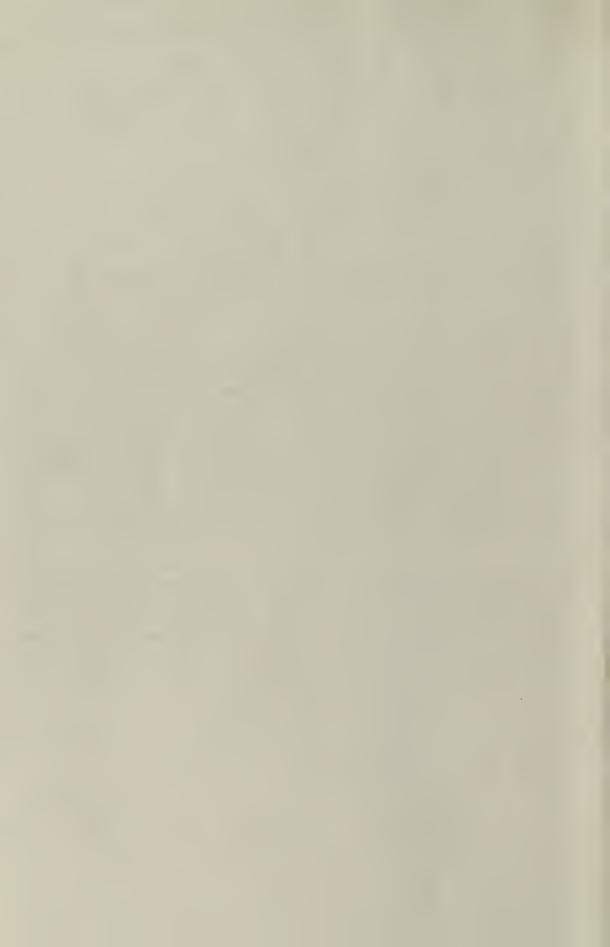
CAPTAIN COOK.

In the month of January, 1779, the Resolution and Discovery lay about a fortnight at anchor in the bay of Kerag, e, goo, ah *, in the Island of Ou, why, ee. During that time, the ships were most plentifully supplied with provisions by the natives, with whom we lived on the most friendly terms. We were universally treated by them with kind attention and hospitality; but the respect they paid to Captain Cook, was little short of adoration. It was, therefore, with sentiments of the most perfect good-will

* I take it for granted, that most of those into whose hands these pages may fall, have perused Captain Cook's last Voyage, and therefore, I have all along mentioned the names of the principal actors in this account, as people with whom they are already acquainted. But as I differ so much in the orthography of the language of the Sandwich Islands from that used in the printed Voyage, it becomes necessary for me to explain the names I use in this narrative, by those already known. It may appear thrange, how we should differ so much; but so it is:—which is the most accurate, some suture visiter may determine.

Karakakooa I call Ke,rag, c, goo, ah,
Terreeoboo — Kariopoo,
Kowrowa — Kavaroah,
Kancecabareca — Kaneckapo, herci,
Maiha maiha — Ka, mea, mea.

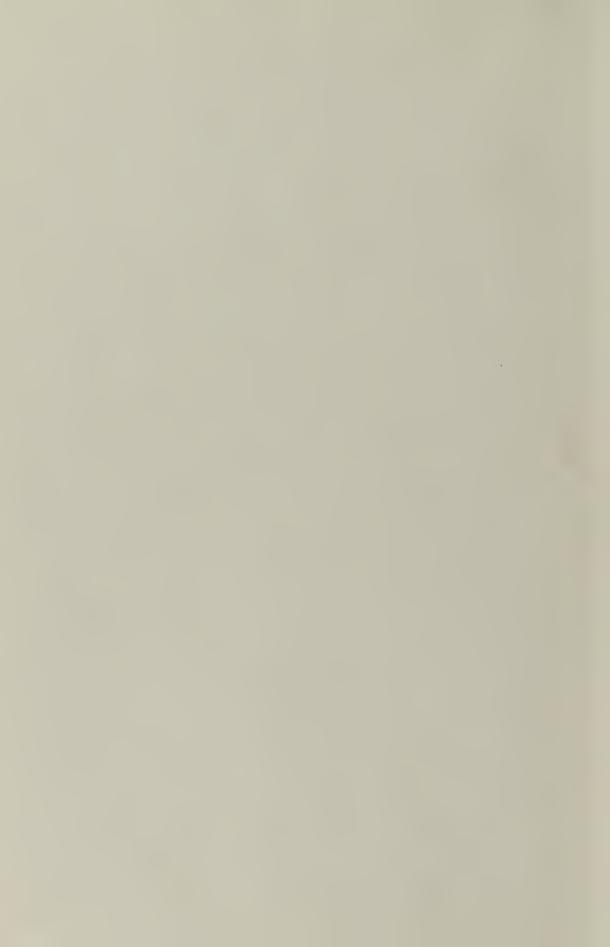
towards



towards the inhabitants, that we left the harbour, on the fourth of February. It was Captain Cook's intention to visit the other islands to leeward, and we stood to the westward, towards Mowee, attended by several canoes full of people, who were willing to accompany us as far as they could, before they bad us a final adieu.

On the fixth, we were overtaken by a gale of wind; and the next night, the Resolution had the misfortune of fpringing the head of her foremast, in such a dangerous manner, that Captain Cook was obliged to return to Keragegooah, in order to have it repaired; for we could find no other convenient harbour on the island. fame gale had occasioned much distress among some canoes, that had paid us a vifit from the shore. One of them, with two men and a child on board, was picked up by the Resolution, and rescued from destruction: the men, having toiled hard all night, in attempting to reach the land, were fo much exhausted, that they could hardly mount the ship's side. When they got upon the quarter-deck, they burst into tears, and seemed much affected with the dangerous fituation from which they had escaped; but the little child appeared lively and cheerful. One of the Refolution's boats was also so fortunate as to save a man and: two women, whose canoe had been upset by the violence of the waves. They were brought on board, and, with the others, partook of the kindness and humanity of Captain Cook.

On the morning of Wednesday, the tenth, we were within a few miles of the harbour; and were soon joined by several canoes, in which appeared many of our old. acquaintance, who seemed to have come to welcome us back.



back. Among them was Coo, aha, a priest: he had brought a fmall pig, and fome cocoa nuts in his hand, which, after having chaunted a few fentences, he prefented to Captain Clerke. He then left us, and hastened on board the Refolution, to perform the fame friendly ceremony before Captain Cook. Having but light winds all that day, we could not gain the harbour. In the afternoon, a chief of the first rank, and nearly related to Kariopoo, paid us a visit on board the Discovery. His name was Ka, mea, mea: he was dreffed in a very rich feathered cloke, which he feemed to have brought for fale, but would part with it for nothing except iron daggers. These, the chiefs, some time before our departure, had preferred to every other article; for having received a plentiful fupply of hatchets and other tools, they began to collect a store of warlike instruments. Kameamea procured nine daggers for his cloke, and being pleafed with his reception, he and his attendants slept on board that night.

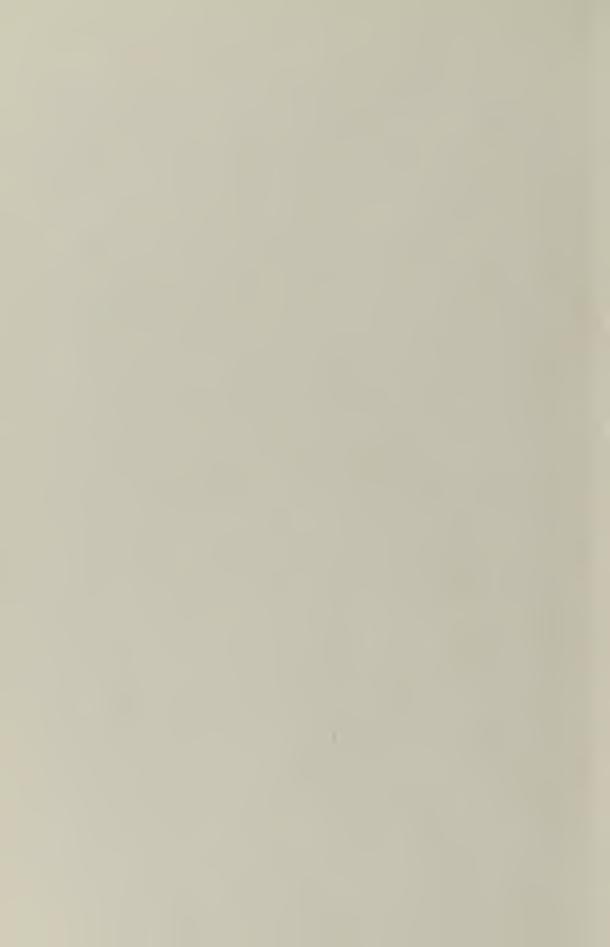
In the morning of the eleventh of February, the ships anchored again in Keragegooah bay, and preparation was immediately made for landing the Resolution's foremast. We were visited but by sew of the Indians, because there were but sew in the bay. On our departure, those belonging to other parts, had repaired to their several habitations, and were again to collect from various quarters, before we could expect to be surrounded by such multitudes as we had once seen in that harbour. In the afternoon, I walked about a mile into the country, to visit an Indian friend, who had, a few days before, come near twenty miles, in a small canoe, to see me, while the ship lay becalmed.

As

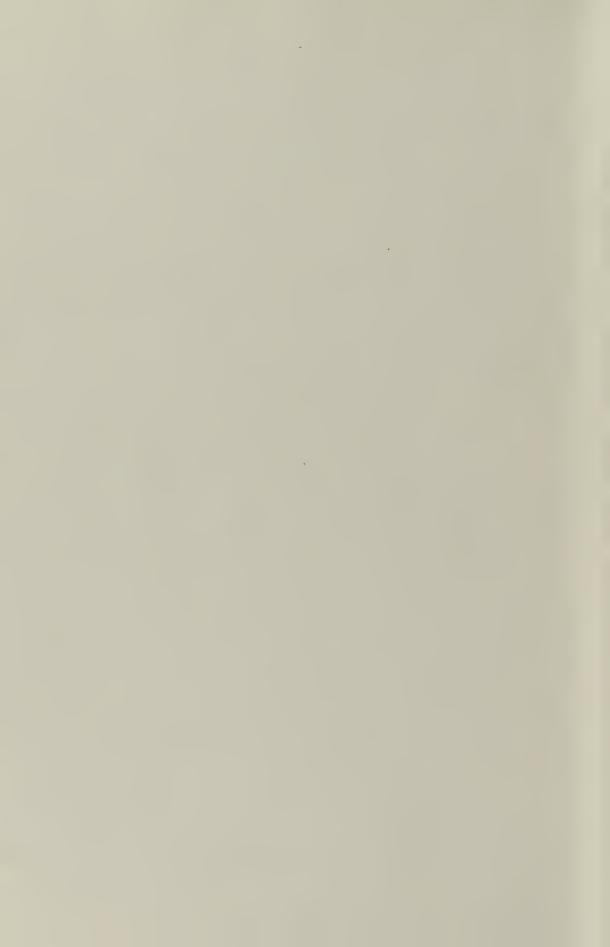


As the canoe had not left us long before a gale of wind came on, I was alarmed for the confequence: however, I had the pleafure to find that my friend had escaped unhurt, though not without some difficulties. I take notice of this fliort excursion, merely because it afforded me an opportunity of observing, that there appeared no change in the disposition or behaviour of the inhabitants. I saw nothing that could induce me to think, that they were displeased with our return, or jealous of the intention of our second visit. On the contrary, that abundant good nature which had always charactised them, seemed still to glow in every boson, and to animate every countenance.

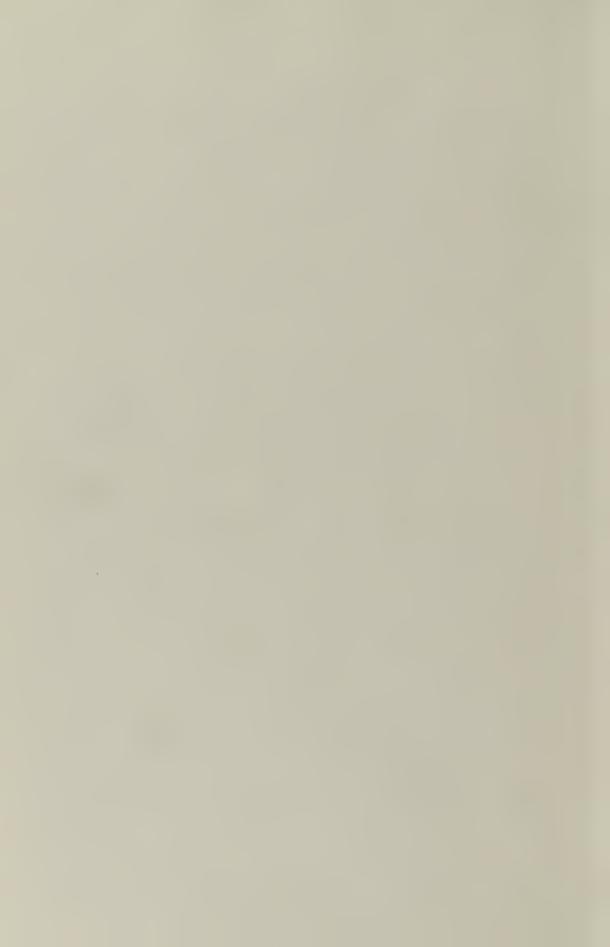
The next day, February the twelfth, the ships were put under a taboo, by the chiefs, a folemnity, it feems, that was requifite to be observed before Kariopoo, the king, paid his first visit to captain Cook, after his return. He waited upon him the fame day, on board the Refolution, attended by a large train, some of which bore the presents defigned for Captain Cook, who received him in his ufual friendly manner; and gave him feveral articles in return. This amicable ceremony being fettled, the taboo was diffolved, matters went on in the usual train, and the next day, February the thirteenth, we were vifited by the natives in great numbers; the Refolution's mast was landed, and the aftronomical observatories erected on their former fituation. I landed, with another gentleman, at the town of Kavaroah, where we found a great number of canoes, just arrived from different parts of the island, and the Indians bufy in conftructing temporary huts on the beach, for their residence during the stay of the ships. On our return on board the Difcovery, we learned, that an Indian



had been detected in stealing the armourer's tongs from the forge, for which he received a pretty fevere flogging, and was fent out of the ship. Notwithstanding the example made of this man, in the afternoon another had the audacity to fnatch the tongs and a chizel from the same place, with which he jumped overboard, and fwam for the shore. The master and a midshipman were instantly dispatched after him, in the fmall cutter. The Indian feeing himfelf purfued, made for a canoe; his countrymen took him on board, and paddled as fwift as they could towards the shore; we fired several muskets at them, but to no effect, for they foon got out of the reach of our fhot. Pareah, one of the chiefs, who was at that time on board the Difcovery, understanding what had happened, immediately went ashore, promising to bring back the stolen goods. Our boat was fo far distanced, in chasing the canoe which had taken the thief on board, that he had time to make his escape into the country. Captain Cook, who was then on fhore, endeavoured to intercept his landing; but, it feems, that he was led out of the way by some of the natives, who had officiously intruded themselves as guides. As the master was approaching near the landing-place, he was met by some of the Indians in a canoe: they had brought back the tongs and chizel, together with another article, that we had not missed, which happened to be the lid of the water-cask. Having recovered these things, he was returning on board, when he was met by the Refolution's pinnace, with five men in her, who, without any orders, had come from the observatories to his assistance. Being thus unexpectedly reinforced, he thought himself ftrong enough to infift upon having the thief, or the canoe

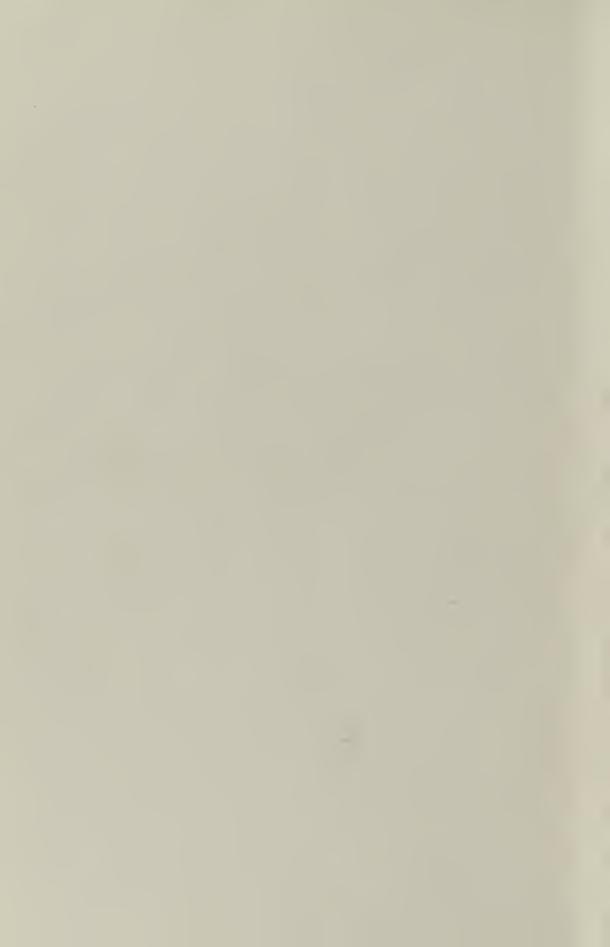


canoe which took him in, delivered up as reprizals. With that view he turned back; and having found the canoe on the beach, he was preparing to launch it into the water, when Pareah made his appearance, and infifted upon his not taking it away, as it was his property. The officer not regarding him, the chief feized upon him, pinioned his arms behind, and held him by the hair of his head; on which, one of the failors struck him with an oar: Pareah instantly quitted the officer, snatched the oar out of the man's hand, and fnapped it in two across his knee. length, the multitude began to attack our people with stones. They made some resistance, but were soon overpowered, and obliged to fwim for fafety to the small cutter, which lay farther out than the pinnace. The officers, not being expert fwimmers, retreated to a fmall rock in the water, where they were closely purfued by the Indians. One man darted a broken oar at the master; but his foot flipping at the time, he missed him, which fortunately faved that officer's life. At last, Pareah interfered, and put an end to their violence. The Gentlemen, knowing that his prefence was their only defence against the fury of the natives, entreated him to flay with them, till they could get off in the boats; but that he refused, and left them. The master went to seek affistance from the party at the observatories; but the midshipman chose to remain in the pinnace. He was very rudely treated by the mob, who plundered the boat of every thing that was loofe on board, and then began to knock her to pieces, for the fake of the iron-work; but Pareah fortunately returned in time to prevent her destruction. He had met the other gentleman on his way to the observatories, and suspecting his



his errand, had forced him to return. He dispersed the crowd again, and defired the gentlemen to return on board: they represented, that all the oars had been taken out of the boat; on which he brought some of them back, and the gentlemen were glad to get off, without farther molestation. They had not proceeded far, before they were overtaken by Pareah, in a canoe: he delivered the midshipman's cap, which had been taken from him in the fcuffle, joined nofes with them, in token of reconciliation, and was anxious to know, if Captain Cook would kill him for what had happened. They affured him of the contrary, and made figns of friendship to him in return. He then left them, and paddled over to the town of Kavaroah. and that was the last time we ever faw him. Captain. Cook returned on board foon after, much displeased withthe whole of this disagreeable business; and the same night, fent a lieutenant on board the Discovery, to learn: the particulars of it, at it had originated in that ship.

It was remarkable, that in the midft of the hurry and confusion attending this affair, Kanynah (a chief who had always been on terms particularly friendly with us) came from the spot where it happened, with a hog to sell on board the Discovery: it was of an extraordinary large size, and he demanded for it a pahowa, or dagger, of an unusual length. He pointed to us, that it must be as long as his arm. Captain Clerke not having one of that length, told him, he would get one made for him by the morning; with which being satisfied, he left the hog, and went ashore without making any stay with us. It will not be altogether foreign to the subject, to mention a circumitance, that happened to-day on board the Resolution.



An Indian chief asked Captain Cook at his table, if he was a Tata Toa; which means a fighting man, or a foldier. Being answered in the affirmative, he defired to fee his wounds: Captain Cook held out his right-hand, which had a fear upon it, dividing the thumb from the finger, the whole length of the metacarpal bones. The Indian, being thus convinced of his being a Toa, put the same question to another gentleman present, but he happened to have none of those distinguishing marks: the chief then faid, that he himself was a Toa, and shewed the scars of fome wounds he had received in battle. Those who were on duty at the observatories, were disturbed during the night, with shrill and melancholy founds, iffuing from the adjacent villages, which they took to be the lamentations of the women. Perhaps the quarrel between us, might have filled their minds with apprehensions for the fafety of their husbands: but, be that as it may, their mournful cries struck the fentinels with unufual awe and terror.

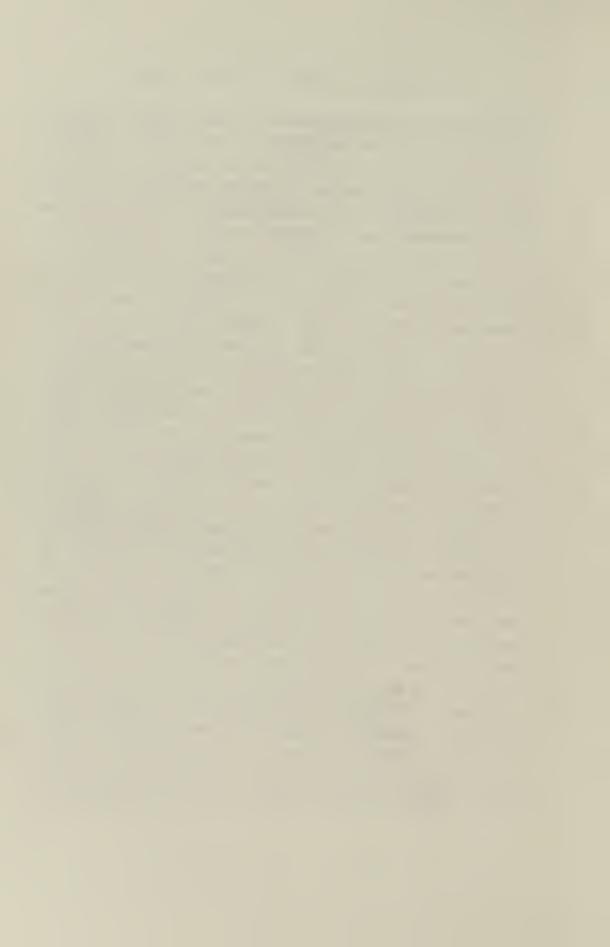
To widen the breach between us, some of the Indians, in the night, took away the Discovery's large cutter, which lay swamped at the buoy of one of her anchors: they had carried her off so quietly, that we did not miss her till the morning, Sunday, February the sourteenth. Captain Clerke lost no time in waiting upon Captain Cook, to acquaint him with the accident: he returned on board, with orders for the launch and small cutter to go, under the command of the second lieutenant, and lie off the east point of the bay, in order to intercept all canoes that might attempt to get out; and, if he found it necessary, to fire upon them. At the same time, the third lieutenant of the Resolution, with the launch and small cutter, was sent on

the same service, to the opposite point of the bay; and the master was dispatched in the large cutter, in pursuit of a double canoe, already under fail, making the best of her way out of the harbour. He foon came up with her, and by firing a few muskets, drove her on shore, and the Indians left her: this happened to be the canoe of Omea, a man who bore the title of Orono. He was on board himfelf, and it would have been fortunate, if our people had fecured him, for his person was held as sacred as that of the king. During this time, Captain Cook was preparing to go ashore himself, at the town of Kavaroah, in order to secure the person of Kariopoo, before he should have time to withdraw himself to another part of the island, out of our reach. This appeared the most effectual step that could be taken on the present occasion, for the recovery of the boat. It was the measure he had invariably purfued, in fimilar cases, at other islands in these seas, and it had always been attended with the defired fuccess: in fact, it would be difficult to point out any other mode of proceeding on these emergencies, likely to attain the object in view. We had reason to suppose, that the king and his attendants had fled when the alarm was first given: in that case, it was Captain Cook's intention to secure the large canoes which were hauled up on the beach. He left the ship about seven o'clock, attended by the lieutenant of marines, a ferjeant, corporal, and feven private men: the pinnace's crew were also armed, and under the command of Mr. Roberts. As they rowed towards the shore, Captain-Cook ordered the launch to leave her station at the west point of the bay, in order to assist his own boat. This is a circumstance worthy of notice; for it clearly shews,

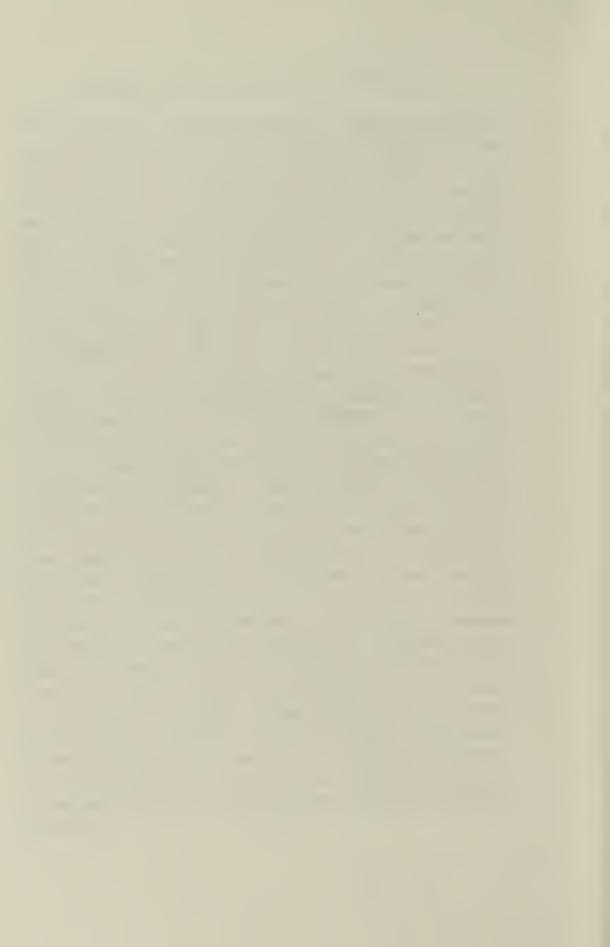
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that he was not unapprehensive of meeting with resistance from the natives, or unmindful of the necessary preparation for the fafety of himself and his people. I will venture to fay, that from the appearance of things just at that time, there was not one, beside himself, who judged that fuch precaution was absolutely requisite: so little did his conduct on the occasion, bear the marks of rashness, or a precipitate felf-confidence! He landed, with the marines, at the upper end of the town of Kavaroah: the Indians immediately flocked round, as usual, and shewed him the customary marks of respect, by prostrating themselves before him. There were no figns of hostilities, or much alarm among them. Captain Cook, however, did not feem willing to trust to appearances; but was particularly attentive to the disposition of the marines, and to have them kept clear of the crowd. He first enquired for the king's fons, two youths who were much attached to him, and generally his companions on board. Meffengers being fent for them, they foon came to him, and informing him that their father was asleep, at a house not far from them, he accompanied them thither, and took the marines along with them. As he passed along, the natives every where proftrated themselves before him, and seemed to have lost no part of that respect they had always shewn to his person. He was joined by feveral chiefs, among whom was Kanynah, and his brother Koohowrooah. They kept the crowd in order, according to their usual custom; and being ignorant of his intention in coming on shore, frequently asked him, if he wanted any hogs, or other provisions: he told them that he did not, and that his business was to see the king. When he arrived at the house, he ordered some of the

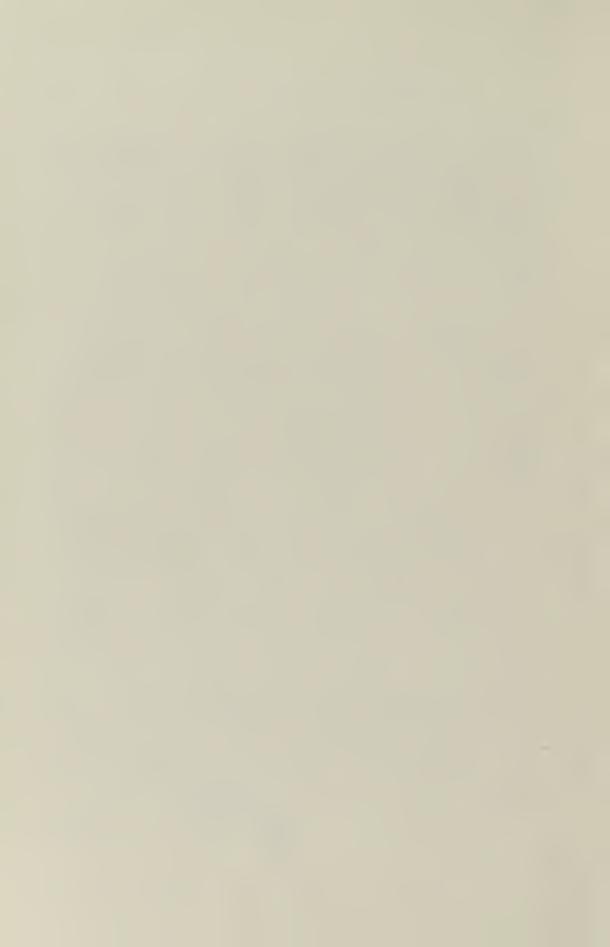


the Indians to go in, and inform Kariopoo, that he waited without to speak with him. They came out two or three times, and instead of returning any answer from the king, presented some pieces of red cloth to him, which made Captain Cook suspect that he was not in the house; he therefore defired the lieutenant of marines to go in. The lieutenant found the old man just awaked from sleep, and feemingly alarmed at the meffage; but he came out without hesitation. Captain Cook took him by the hand, and in a friendly manner, asked him to go on board, to which he very readily confented. Thus far matters appeared in a favourable train, and the natives did not feem much alarmed or apprehensive of hostility on our side; at which Captain Cook expressed himself a little surprized, saying, that as the inhabitants of that town appeared innocent of stealing the cutter, he should not molest them, but that he must get the king on board. Kariopoo sat down before his door, and was furrounded by a great crowd: Kanynah and his brother were both very active in keeping order among them. In a little time, however, the Indians were observed arming themselves with long spears, clubs, and daggers, and putting on thick mats, which they use as armour. This hostile appearance increased, and became more alarming, on the arrival of two men in a canoe from the opposite side of the bay, with the news of a chief, called Kareemoo, having been killed by one of the Difcovery's boats, in their paffage across: they had also delivered this account to each of the ships. Upon that information, the women, who were fitting upon the beach at their breakfasts, and conversing familiarly with our people in the boats, retired, and a confused murmur spread through C 2

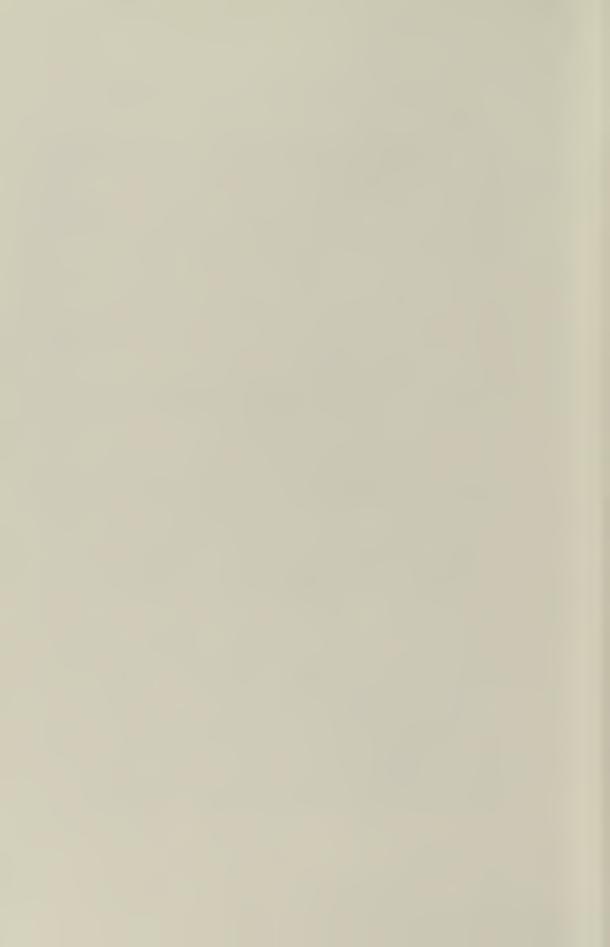


through the crowd. An old priest came to Captain Cook, with a cocoa nut in his hand, which he held out to him as a prefent, at the fame time finging very loud. He was often defired to be filent, but in vain: he continued importunate and troublesome, and there was no such thing as getting rid of him or his noise: it seemed, as if he meant to divert their attention from his countrymen, whowere growing more tumultuous, and arming themselves in every quarter. Captain Cook, being at the same time furrounded by a great crowd, thought his fituation ratherhazardous: he therefore ordered the ligutenant of marines to march his fmall party to the water-fide, where the boats lay within a few yards of the shore: the Indians readily made a lane for them to pass, and did not offer to interrupt them. The distance they had to go might be about fifty or fixty yards; Captain Cook followed, having hold of Kariopoo's hand, who accompanied him very willingly: he was attended by his wife, two fons, and feveral chiefs. The troublesome old priest followed, making the same savage noise. Keowa, the younger fon, went directly into the pinnace, expecting his father to follow; but just ashe arrived at the water-fide, his wife threw her arms about his neck, and, with the affistance of two chiefs forced him to fit down by the fide of a double canoe. Captain Cook expostulated with them, but to no purpose: they would not fuffer the king to proceed, telling him, that he would be put to death if he went on board the ship. Kariopoo, whose conduct seemed entirely resigned to the will of others, hung down his head, and appeared much diftreffed.

While



While the king was in this fituation, a chief, well known to us, of the name of Coho, was observed lurking near, with an iron dagger, partly concealed under his cloke, feemingly, with the intention of stabbing Captain Cook, or the lieutenant of marines. The latter proposed to fire at him, but Captain Cook would not permit it. Coho closing upon them, obliged the officer to strike him with his piece, which made him retire. Another Indian laid hold of the ferjeant's musket, and endeavoured to wrench it from him, but was prevented by the lieutenant's making a blow at him: Captain Cook, feeing the tumult increase, and the Indians growing more daring and refolute, obferved, that if he were to take the king off by force, he could not do it without facrificing the lives of many of his people. He then paufed a little, and was on the point of giving his orders to reimbark, when a man threw a stone at him; which he returned with a discharge of small shor, (with which one barrel of his double piece was loaded). The man, having a thick mat before him, received little or no hurt: he brandished his spear, and threatened to dart it at Captain Cook, who being still unwilling to take away his life, instead of firing with ball, knocked him down with his musket. He expostulated strongly with the most forward of the crowd, upon their turbulent behaviour. He had given up all thoughts of getting the king on board, as it appeared impracticable; and his care was then only to act on the defensive, and to secure a safe embarkation for his fmall party, which was closely pressed by a body of feveral thousand people. Keowa, the king's fon, who was in the pinnace, being alarmed on hearing the first firing, was, at his own entreaty, put on shore again; for even

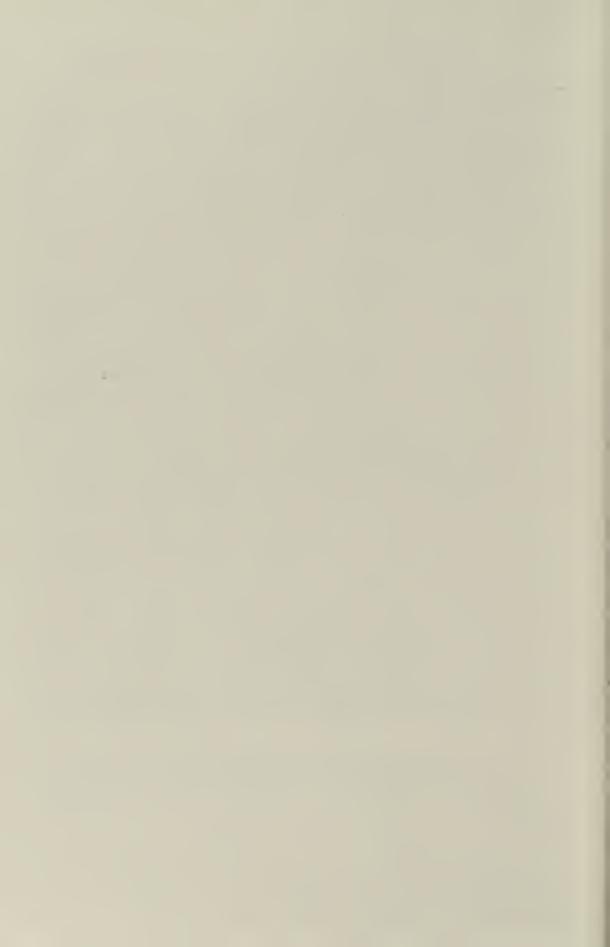


even at that time, Mr. Roberts, who commanded her, did not apprehend that Captain Cook's person was in any danger: otherwise he would have detained the prince, which, no doubt, would have been a great check on the Indians. One man was observed, behind a double canoe, in the action of darting his spear at Captain Cook, who was forced to fire at him in his own defence, but happened to kill another close to him, equally forward in the tumult: the ferjeant observing that he had missed the man he aimed at, received orders to fire at him, which he did, and killed him. By this time, the impetuofity of the Indians was somewhat repressed; they fell back in a body, and feemed staggered: but being pushed on by those behind, they returned to the charge, and poured a volley of stones among the marines, who, without waiting for orders, returned it with a general discharge of musketry, which was instantly followed by a fire from the boats. At this Captain Cook was heard to express his astonishment: he waved his hand to the boats, called to them to cease firing, and to come nearer in to receive the marines. Mr. Roberts immediately brought the pinnace as close to the shore as he could, without grounding, notwithstanding the showers of stones that fell among the people: but Mr. John Williamson, the lieutenant, who commanded in the launch, instead of pulling in to the affistance of Captain Cook, withdrew his boat further off, at the moment that every thing feems to have depended upon the timely exertions of those in the boats. By his own account, he mistook the signal: but be that as it may, this circumstance appears to me, to have decided the fatal turn of the affair, and to have removed every chance which remained

with Captain Cook, of escaping with his life. The business of faving the marines out of the water, in consequence of that, fell altogether upon the pinnace; which thereby became fo much crowded, that the crew were, in. a great measure, prevented from using their fire-arms, or giving what affistance they otherwise might have done, to Captain Cook; fo that he feems, at the most critical point of time, to have wanted the affistance of both boats, owing to the removal of the launch. For notwithstanding that they kept up a fire on the crowd from the fituation to which they removed in that boat, the fatal confusion which ensued on her being withdrawn, to say the least of it, must have prevented the full effect, that the prompt co-operation of the two boats, according to Captain Cook's orders, must have had, towards the preservation of himself and. his people. At that time, it was to the boats alone, that Captain Cook had to look for his fafety; for when the marines had fired, the Indians rushed among them, and forced them into the water, where four of them were killed: their lieutenant was wounded, but fortunately escaped, and was taken up by the pinnace. Captain Cook was then. the only one remaining on the rock: he was observed making for the pinnace, holding his left-hand against the back of his head, to guard it from the stones, and carrying his musket under the other arm. An Indian was seen following him, but with caution and timidity; for he stopped once or twice, as if undetermined to proceed. At last he advanced upon him unawares, and with a large club*,.

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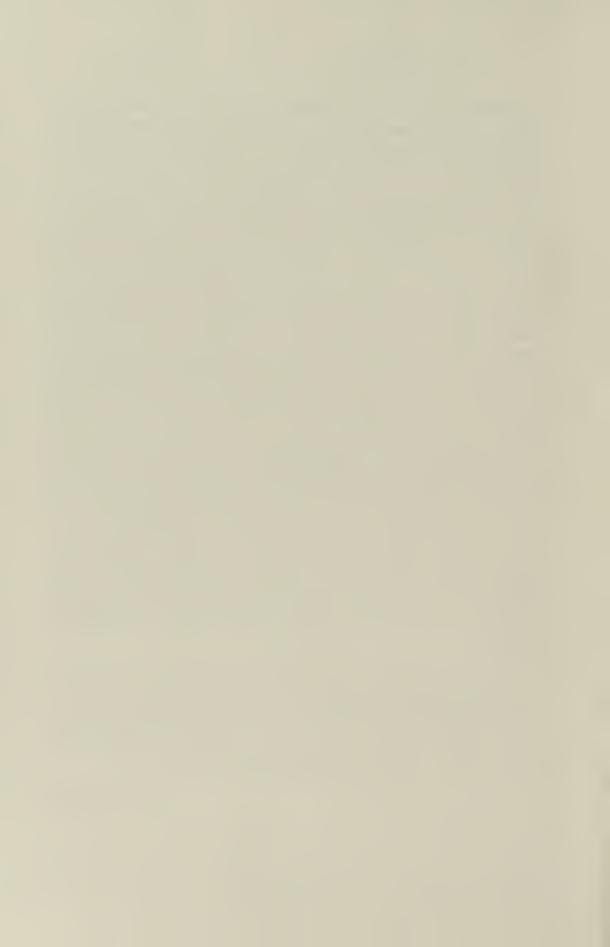
^{*} I have heard one of the gentlemen who were present say, that the first injury he received was from a dagger, as it is represented in the Voyage; but, from the account



or common stake, gave him a blow on the back of the head, and then precipitately retreated. The stroke seemed to have stunned Captain Cook: he staggered a few paces, then fell on his hand and one knee, and dropped his mufket. As he was rifing, and before he could recover his feet, another Indian stabbed him in the back of the neck with an iron dagger. He then fell into a bite of water about knee deep, where others crowded upon him, and endeavoured to keep him under: but struggling very frongly with them, he got his head up, and casting his look towards the pinnace, feemed to folicit affiftance. Though the boat was not above five or fix yards diftant from him, yet from the crowded and confused state of the crew, it feems, it was not in their power to fave him. Indians got him under again, but in deeper water: he was, however, able to get his head up once more, and being almost spent in the struggle, he naturally turned to the rock, and was endeavouring to support himself by it, when a favage gave him a blow with a club, and he was feen alive no more. They hauled him up lifeless on the rocks, where they feemed to take a favage pleafure in using every barbarity to his dead body, fnatching the daggers out of each other's hands, to have the horrid fatiffaction of piercing the fallen victim of their barbarous rage.

count of many others, who were also eye-witnesses, I am confident, in saying, that he was first struck with a club. I was afterwards confirmed in this, by Kaireekea, the priest, who particularly mentioned the name of the man who gave him the blow, as well as that of the chief who afterwards struck him with the dagger. This is a point not worth disputing about: I mention it, as being solicitous to be accurate in this account, even in circumstances, of themselve, not very material.

I need



I need make no reflection on the great loss we fuffered on this occasion, or attempt to describe what we felt. It is enough to say, that no man was ever more beloved or admired: and it is truly painful to reflect, that he seems to have fallen a facrifice merely for want of being properly supported; a fate, singularly to be lamented, as having fallen to his lot, who had ever been conspicuous for his care of those under his command, and who seemed, to the last, to pay as much attention to their preservation, as to that of his own life.

If any thing could have added to the shame and indignation univerfally felt on the occasion, it was to find, that his remains had been deferted, and left exposed on the beach, although they might have been brought off. appears, from the information of four or five midshipmen, who arrived on the fpot at the conclusion of the fatal businefs, that the beach was then almost entirely deserted by the Indians, who at length had given way to the fire of the boats, and difperfed through the town: fo that there feemed no great obstacle to prevent the recovery of Captain Cook's body; but the lieutenant returned on board without making the attempt. It is unnecessary to dwell longer on this painful subject, and to relate the complaints and cenfures that fell on the conduct of the lieutenant. It will be fufficient to observe, that they were so loud, as to oblige Captain Clerke publickly to notice them, and to take the depositions of his accusers down in writing. The Captain's bad state of health and approaching dissolution, it is supposed, induced him to destroy these papers a short time before his death.

It



It is a painful task, to be obliged to notice circumstances, which seem to reslect upon the character of any man. A strict regard to truth, however, compelled me to the infertion of these facts, which I have offered merely as facts, without presuming to connect with them any comment of my own: esteeming it the part of a faithful historian, "to extenuate nothing, nor set down ought in malice."

The fatal accident happened at eight o'clock in the morning, about an hour after Captain Cook landed. did not feem, that the king, or his fons, were witneffes to it; but it is supposed that they withdrew in the midst of the tumult. The principal actors were the other chiefs, many of them the king's relations and attendants: the man who stabbed him with the dagger was called Nooah. I happened to be the only one who recollected his person, from having on a former occasion mentioned his name in the journal I kept. I was induced to take particular notice of him, more from his personal appearance than any other confideration, though he was of high rank, and a near relation of the king: he was flout and tall, with a fierce look and demeanour, and one who united in his figure the two qualities of strength and agility, in a greater degree, than ever I remembered to have feen before in any other man. His age might be about thirty, and by the white fourf on his skin, and his fore eyes, he appeared to be a hard drinker of Kava. He was a constant companion of the king, with whom I first saw him, when he paid a visit to Captain Clerke. The chief who first struck Captain Cook with the club, was called Karimano, craha, but I did not know him by his name. These circumstances I learnt of honest Kaireekea, the priest; who added, that they

they were both held in great esteem on account of that action: neither of them came near us afterwards. When the boats left the shore, the Indians carried away the dead body of Captain Cook and those of the marines, to the rising ground, at the back of the town, where we could plainly see them with our glasses from the ships.

This most melancholy accident, appears to have been altogether unexpected and unforeseen, as well on the part of the natives as ourselves. I never saw sufficient reason to induce me to believe, that there was any thing of defign, or a pre-concerted plan on their fide, or that they purposely fought to quarrel with us: thieving, which gave rise to the whole, they were equally guilty of, in our first and second visits. It was the cause of every misunderstanding that happened between us: their petty thefts were generally overlooked, but fometimes flightly punished: the boat, which they at last ventured to take away, was an object of no small magnitude to people in our fituation, who could not possibly replace her, and therefore not flightly to be given up. We had no other chance of recovering her, but by getting the person of the king into our possession: on our attempting to do that, the natives became alarmed for his fafety, and naturally opposed those whom they deemed his enemies. the fudden conflict that enfued, we had the unspeakable misfortune of losing our excellent Commander, in the manner already related. It is in this light the affair has always appeared to me, as entirely accidental, and not in the least owing to any previous offence received, or jealousy of our fecond visit entertained by the natives.



Pareah feems to have been the principal instrument in bringing about this fatal difaster. We learnt afterwards, that it was he who had employed some people to steal the boat: the king did not seem to be privy to it, or even apprized of what had happened, till Captain Cook landed.

It was generally remarked, that at first, the Indians shewed great resolution in facing our fire-arms; but it was entirely owing to ignorance of their effect. They thought that their thick mats would defend them from a ball, as well as from a stone; but being soon convinced of their error, yet still at a loss to account how such execution was done among them, they had recourse to a stratagem. which, though it answered no other purpose, served to fhew their ingenuity and quickness of invention. Obferving the flashes of the muskets, they naturally concluded, that water would counteract their effect, and therefore, very fagaciously, dipped their mats, or armour in the fea, just as they came on to face our people: but finding this last resource to fail them, they soon dispersed, and left the beach entirely clear. It was an object they never neglected, even at the greatest hazard, to carry off their flain; a custom, probably, owing to the barbarity with which they treat the dead body of an enemy, and the trophies they make of his bones *.

PARTICU-

A remarkable instance of this I met with at Atowai. Tamataherei, the queen of that island, paid us a visit one day on board the Discovery, accompanied by her bushand Tacoh, and one of her daughters by her former husband Otecha. The young princess, whose name was Ote, reemo, horance, carried in her hand a very elegant fly-flap, of a curious construction: the upper part of it was variegated with alternate rings of tortoise shell and human Lone, and the handle, which was well polished, consisted of the greater part of the os launeri of a chief, called Mahowra. He had belonged to the



8 0 M E

PARTICULARS,

CONCERNING THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

CAPTAIN COOK.

CAPTAIN COOK was born at Marton, in Cleaveland, in the county of York, a small village, distant five miles south-east from Stockton. His name is sound in the parish register in the year 1729 (so that Captain King was mistaken, in placing the time of his birth in the year 1727). The cottage in which his father formerly lived, is now decayed, but the spot where it stood is still shewn to strangers. A gentleman is now living in that neighbourhood, with whom the old man formerly worked as a common day-labourer in the fields. However, though

the neighbouring island of Oahoo, and, in a hostile descent he made upon this coast, had been killed by Otecha, who was then sovereign of Atowai. And thus we sound Orereemohoranee carrying his bones about, as trophies of her father's victory. The queen set a great value upon it, and was not willing to part with it for any of our iron ware; but happening to cast her eyes upon a wash-hand bason of mine, it struck her sancy, and she offered to exchange; I accepted of her proposal, and the bones of the unfortunate Mahowra came at last into my possession.

placed



placed in this humble station, he gave his son a common school education, and at an early age, placed him apprentice with one Mr. Saunderson, a shopkeeper at Staith, (always pronounced Steers) a finall fishing-town on the Yorkshire coast, about nine miles to the northward of Whitby. The business is now carried on by the son of Mr. Saunderson, in the same shop, which I had the curiofity to vifit about a year and half ago. In that fituation young Cook did not continue long, before he quitted it in difgust, and, as often happens in the like cases, betook himself to the fea. Whithy being a neighbouring fea-port, readily offered him an opportunity to purfue his inclination; and there we find he bound himfelf apprentice, for nine years, in the coal trade, to one Mr. John Walker, now living in South Whitby. In his employ, he afterwards became mate of a fhip; in which flation having continued fome time, he had the offer of being mafter, which he refused, as it feems he had at that time turned his thoughts towards the navy. Accordingly, at the breaking out of the war in 1755, he entered on board the Eagle, of fixtyfour guns, and in a fhort time after, Sir Hugh Pallifer was appointed to the command of that ship, a circumstance that must not be passed unnoticed, as it proved the foundation of the future fame and fortune of Captain Cook. His uncommon merit did not long escape the obfervation of that difcerning officer, who promoted him to the quarter-deck, and ever after patronized him with such zeal and attention, as must reflect the highest honour upon his character. To Sir Hugh Pallifer is the world indebted, for having first noticed in an obscure situation, and afterwards brought forward in life, the greatest nautical genius

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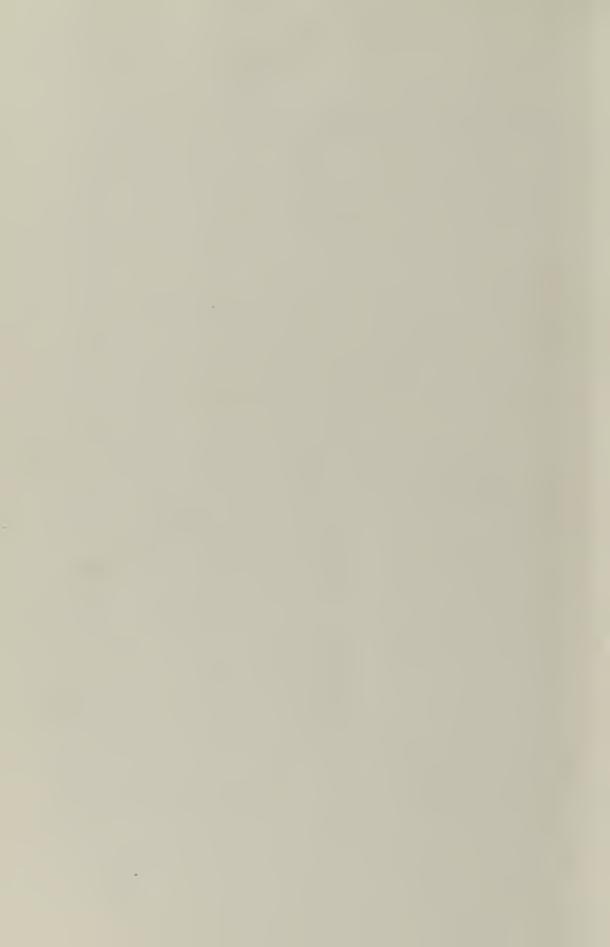
that ever any age or country has produced. In the year intota 1758, we find him mafter of the Northumberland, then in America, under the command of Lord Colville. It taking was there, he has been heard to fay, that during a hard winter he color hard a hard a hard winter he color hard a winter he first read Euclid, and applied himself to the study of astronomy and the mathematics, in which he made no inconfiderable progrefs, affifted only by his own ingenuity and industry. At the time he thus found means to cultivate and improve his mind, and to fupply the deficiency of an early education, he was constantly engaged in the most busy and active scenes of the war in America. At the fiege of Quebec, Sir Hugh Pallifer made him known to Sir Charles Saunders, who committed to his charge the conducting of the boats to the attack of mount Morenci, and the embarkation that scaled the heights of Abraham. He was also employed to examine the passage of the river St. Laurence, and to lay buovs for the direction of the men of war. In short, in whatever related to the reduction of that place in the naval department, he had a principal share, and conducted himself fo well throughout the whole, as to recommend himself to the commander in chief. At the conclusion of the war, Sir Hugh Pallifer having the command on the Newfoundland station, he appointed him to survey that Island and the coast of Labradore, and gave him the Grenville brig for that purpose. How well he performed that fervice, the charts he has published afford a sufficient testimony. In that employment he continued till the year 1767, when the well known voyage to the South Sea, for observing the transit of Venus, and making discoveries in that vast ocean was planned. Lord Hawke, who then prefided



prefided at the Admiralty, was strongly solicited to give the command of that expedition to Mr. Alexander Dalrymple; but through the interest of his friend Sir Hugh Palliser, Captain Cook obtained the appointment, together with the rank of lieutenant. It was stipulated, that on his return, he should, if he chose it, again hold the place of surveyor of Newfoundland, and that his family should be provided for, in case of any accident to himself.

He failed from England in the Endeavour, in the year 1768, accompanied by Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander, and returned in 1771; after having circumnavigated the globe, made feveral important discoveries in the South Sea, and explored the islands of New Zealand, and great part of the coast of New Holland. The skill and ability with which he conducted that expedition, ranked his name high as a navigator, and could not fail of recommending him to that great patron of naval merit, the Earl of Sandwich, who then prefided at the board of Admiralty. He was promoted to the rank of mafter and commander, and a short time afterwards, appointed to conduct another expedition to the Pacific Ocean, in fearch of the supposed fouthern continent. In this fecond voyage he circumnavigated the globe, determined the non-existence of a fouthern continent, and added many valuable discoveries to those he had before made in the South Sea. His own account of it is before the public, and he is no less admired for the accuracy and extensive knowledge which he has displayed in that work, than for his skill and intrepidity in conducting the expedition. On his return, he was promoted to the rank of politicaptain, and appointed one of the captains of Greenwich hospital. In that Retire-

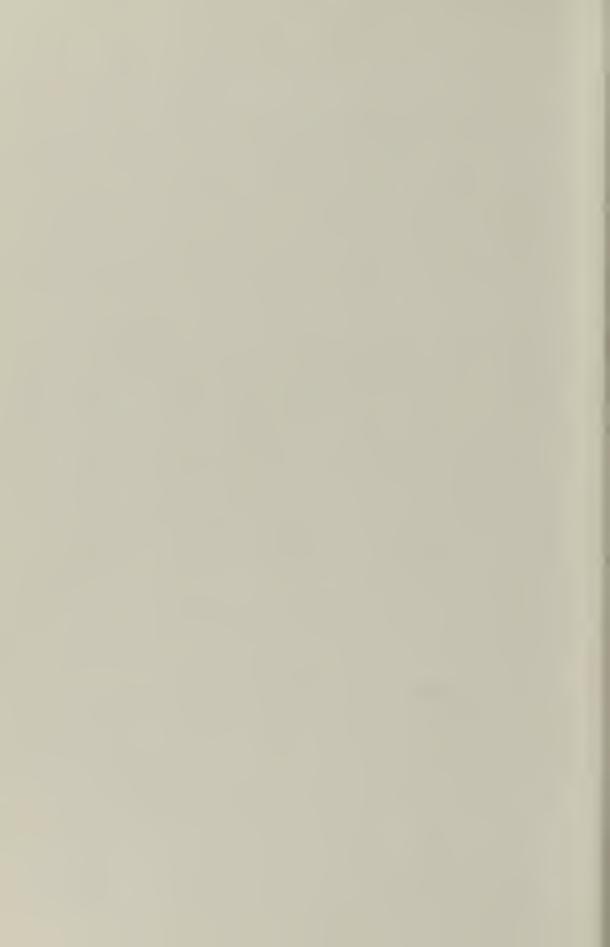
ment



ment he did not continue long: for an active life best suiting his disposition, he offered his services to conduct a third expedition to the South Sea, which was then in agitation, in order to explore a northern passage from Europe to Asia: in this he unfortuately lost his life, but not till he had fully accomplished the object of the voyage.

The character of Captain Cook will be best exemplified by the fervices he has performed, which are univerfally known, and have ranked his name above that of any navigator of ancient or of modern times. Nature had endowed him with a mind vigorous and comprehensive, which in his riper years he had cultivated with care and industry. His general knowledge was extensive and various: in that of his own profession he was unequalled. With a clear judgment, strong masculine sense, and the most determined resolution; with a genius peculiarly turned for enterprize, he purfued his object with unshaken perseverance: -- vigilant and active in an eminent degree: -- cool and intrepid among dangers; patient and firm under difficulties and distress; fertile in expedients; great and original in all his defigns; active and refolved in carrying them into execution. These qualities rendered him the animating spirit of the expedition: in every fituation, he stood unrivalled and alone; on him all eyes were turned; he was our leading-star, which at its fetting, left us involved in darkness and despair.

His constitution was strong, his mode of living temperate: why Captain King should not suppose temperance as great a virtue in him as in any other man, I am unable to guess. He had no repugnance to good living; he always kept a good table, though he could bear the reverse without murmuring. He was a modest man, and rather bash-

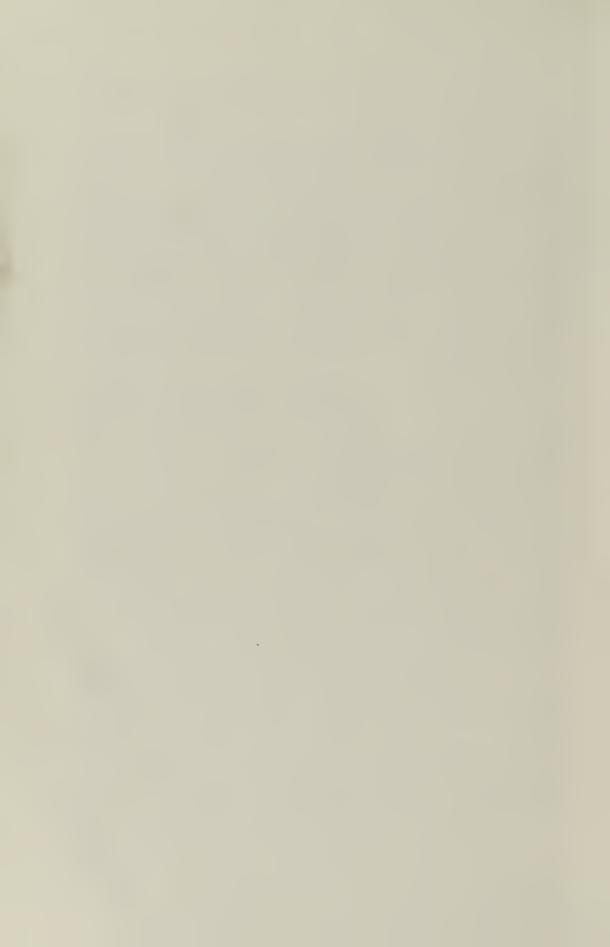


ful; of an agreeable lively conversation, sensible and intelligent. In his temper he was somewhat hasty, but of a disposition the most friendly, benevolent, and humane. His person was above six feet high, and though a good-looking man, he was plain both in address and appearance. His head was small, his hair, which was a dark brown, he wore tied behind. His face was full of expression, his nose exceedingly well-shaped, his eyes, which were small and of a brown cast, were quick and piercing: his eyebrows prominent, which gave his countenance altogether an air of austerity.

He was beloved by his people, who looked up to him as to a father, and obeyed his commands with alacrity. The confidence we placed in him was unremitting; our admiration of his great talents unbounded; our efteem for his good qualities affectionate and fincere.

In exploring unknown countries, the dangers he had to encounter were various and uncommon. On fuch occasions, he always displayed great presence of mind, and a steady perseverance in pursuit of his object. The acquisition he has made to our knowledge of the globe is immense, besides improving the art of navigation, and enriching the science of natural philosophy.

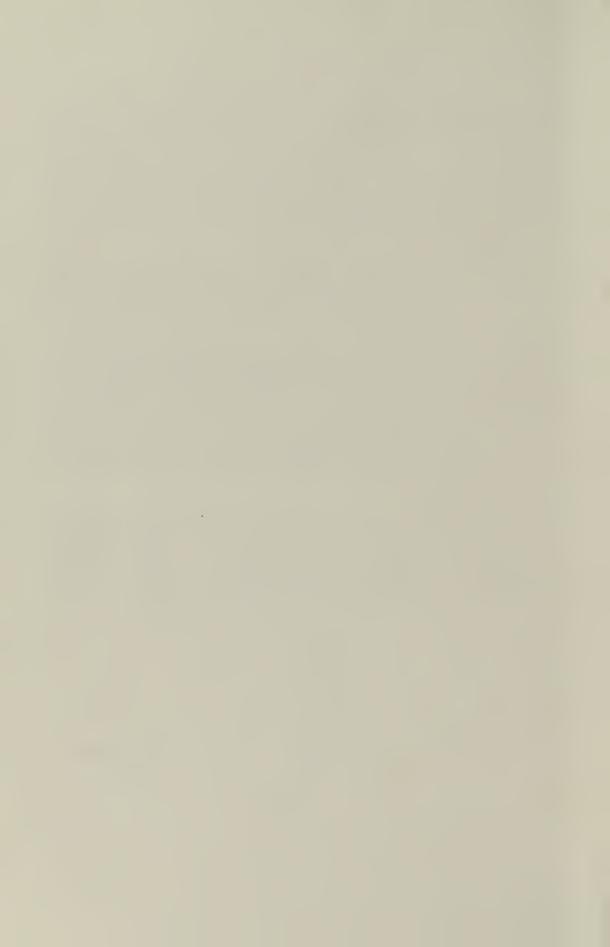
He was remarkably distinguished for the activity of his mind: it was that which enabled him to pay an unwearied attention to every object of the service. The strict occonomy he observed in the expenditure of the ship's stores, and the unremitting care he employed for the preservation of the health of his people, were the causes that enabled him to prosecute discoveries in remote parts of the globe, for such a length of time as had been deemed impractica-



ble by former navigators. The method he discovered for preserving the health of seamen in long voyages, will transmit his name to posterity as the friend and benefactor of mankind: the success which attended it, afforded this truly great man more satisfaction, than the distinguished fame that attended his discoveries.

England has been unanimous in her tribute of applause to his virtues, and all Europe has borne testimony to his merit. There is hardly a corner of the earth, however remote and savage, that will not long remember his benevolence and humanity. The grateful Indian, in time to come, pointing to the herds grazing his fertile plains, will relate to his children how the first stock of them was introduced into the country; and the name of Cook will be remembered among those benign spirits, whom they worship as the source of every good, and the sountain of every blessing.

It may not be amiss to observe, that the plate engraved by Sherwin, after a painting by Dance, is a most excellent likeness of Captain Cook; and more to be valued, as it is the only one I have seen that bears any resemblance to him.



OBSERVATIONS,

RESPECTING THE

INTRODUCTION

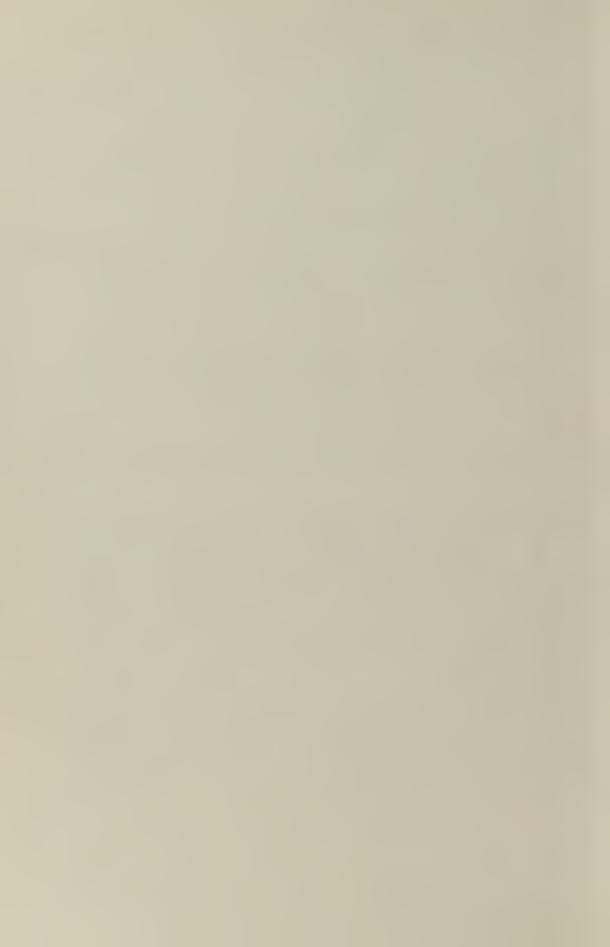
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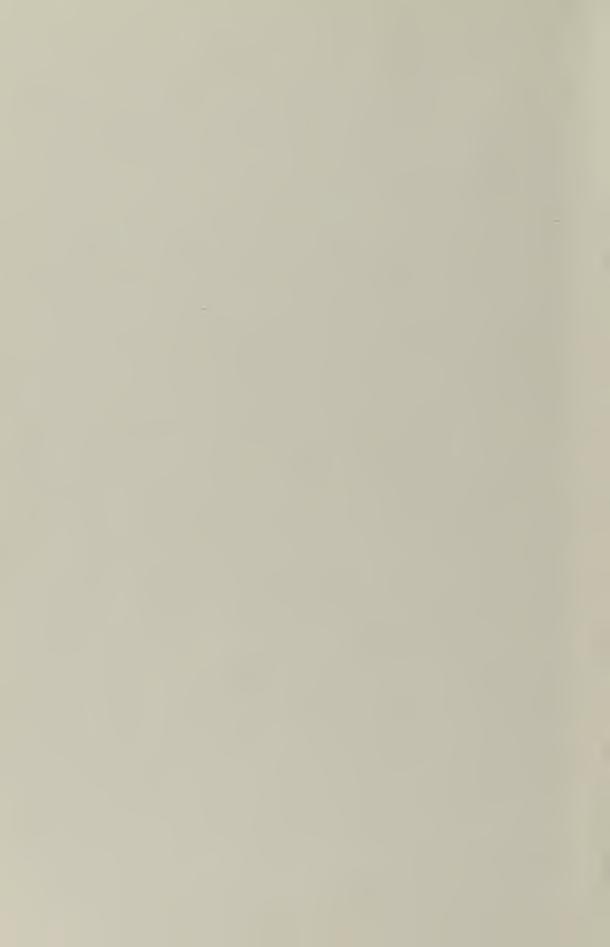
SANDWICH ISLANDS.

I embrace it, to offer a few remarks upon a fubject in some degree affecting the reputation of the late voyages to the South Sea Islands. If we for a moment suppose, that they have been the means of disseminating the venereal disease among the inhabitants, the evil is of such a magnitude, that we are induced to wish they had never been undertaken. For who would not sooner remain ignorant of the interesting discoveries which have been made, than bear the reflection of their having been attended with such an irreparable injury to a happy and uncontaminated race of people!



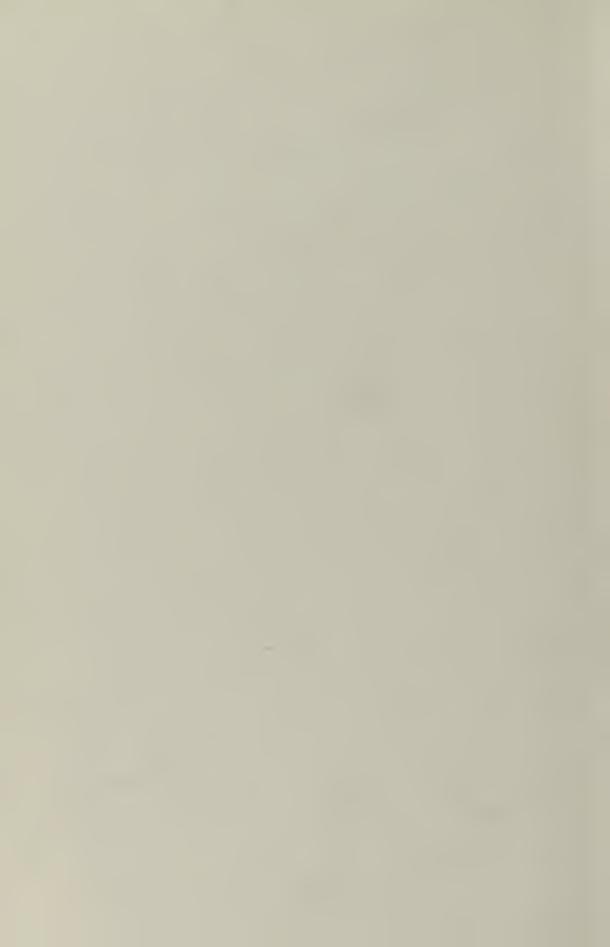
It is a point of dispute between Captain Wallis and Mons. Bougainville, which of their ships it was, that introduced the disease to Otaheite. And we find, that Captain Cook was apprehensive of his people having left it at the Friendly Islands. Without enquiring into the grounds of conviction they had in former voyages, I am strongly inclined to believe, from my observations in the last, that it is a subject about which they are very liable to be deceived; and that what is laid down as positive fact, could be no more than matter of opinion.

In the last voyage, both Captains Cook and King were of opinion, that the inhabitants of Sandwich Islands received that distemper from our people. The great deference I pay to their judgment on every occasion, will hardly allow me to diffent from it in the present instance; and yet I must be allowed to say, that the same evidence which proved convincing to them in this case, did by no means appear fo to me, and I will endeavour to affign my reafons. When we first discovered Sandwich Islands, in the month of January, 1778, the ships anchored at two of them (viz. Atowai and Neehaw) where parties were fent ashore for water, and to purchase provisions of the On this occasion, I must bear my testimony (for I was then in the Refolution) to the very particular care taken by Captain Cook, to prevent any of his people who were not in perfect health, from having communication with the shore, and also to prevent women from coming on board the ships. That this humane precaution answered the intended purpose, we had great reason to believe; for not one of those who did go on shore was afterwards



afterwards in the furgeon's lift, or known to have any complaint; which was the most convincing proof we could have, of their being well at the time. We therefore were under no apprehensions on this head, when we visited these islands a second time, about eleven months from our first discovering them. We then fell in with two islands, (viz. Mowee and Ouwhyee) belonging to the group, which we had not feen before: and very foon found that the venereal difease was not unknown to the natives. excited no little concern and aftonishment among us, and made us anxious to learn whether or no, fo dreadful a calamity had been left at Atowai by our ships, and so propagated to these islands. But the scanty knowledge we had of their language, made this a matter of great difficulty, and rendered the best intelligence we could get but vague and uncertain. While we were cruifing off Ouwhyee, I was told, that some Indians had visited the Refolution with that complaint upon them, and that they feemed to intimate, that our ships had left it at Atowai; whence it had found its way to this island.

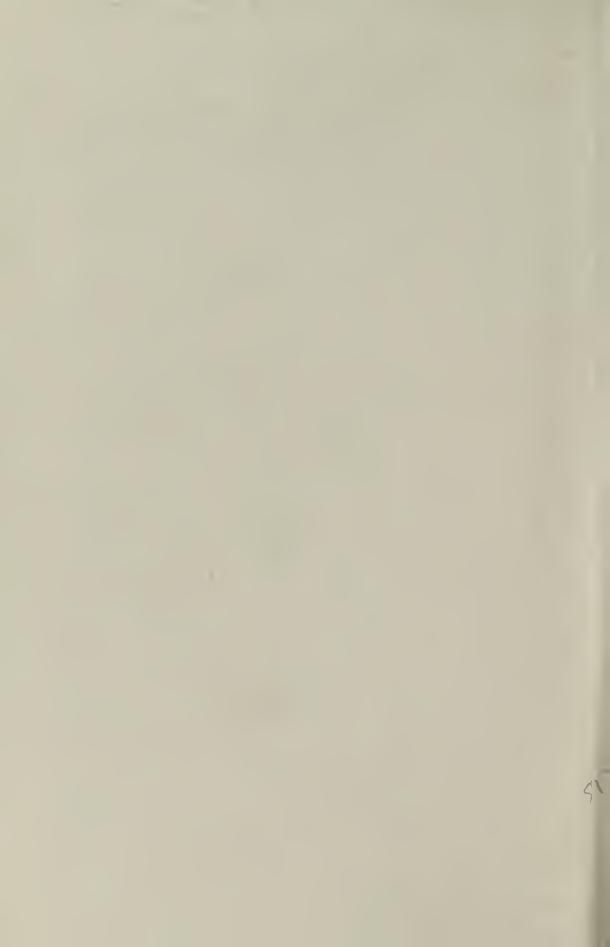
This account, I confess, appeared at once very improbable to me, and rendered me very desirous of an opportunity to examine some of them myself: for I sound the above story gaining universal belief, and selt somewhat hurt, that we should take to ourselves the ignominy of such an imputation, without sufficient proof of its being just. During our stay at Keragegooah bay, where we had constant opportunities of directing our enquiries to the most intelligent of the natives, I met with none who could give me any information on the subject, nor could I learn



I learn that they had the least idea of our having left it at Atowai, or that it was a new thing amongst them. This circumstance, added to the very flight reliance, which experience had taught me to place in any intelligence obtained from the Indians, through the medium of their language, confirmed me in the opinion I had entertained from the first, that the meaning of those Indians had been mifunderstood on board the Resolution. An instance happened foon afterwards which convinced me, that no credit whatfoever is to be given to fuch information. not been long arrived at Atowai a fecond time, before an Indian came on board the Discovery, who appeared to the gentleman who first spoke to him, clearly to charge us with having left the disease at that island, on our former visit. As I was known to be an unbeliever, the man was at last referred to me; and, I confess, I was a little staggered at first with the answers he gave me: but presently, fuspecting from his manner, that he would answer every question proposed to him in the affirmative, I asked him, if they did not receive the disease first from Oahoo; a neighbouring island, which we had not touched at, when we were in these parts before: the man directly answered, that they had; and strenuously persisted in the same, every time the question was put to him, either by myself, or the gentleman who had first examined him. Such contradictory accounts as these, prove nothing, but our ignorance of their language, and confequently, how apt we are to be misled in enquiries of this fort. I never put any confidence in them myself, and have often been furprized to fee others put fo much. Yet those who have maintained



maintained that we left the disease at Sandwich Islands, have no better foundation than this, to rest their opinion upon. Whether it be fufficient to support such an accufation, I will leave others to judge, after what I have related above; and proceed to point out fuch other circumstances as tend to prove, that the difease was not left at these islands by our ships. From every thing we could learn, it appeared, that there is but little intercourse between Atowai and the islands to windward, especially Ouwhyee, which is about fifty leagues distant: and the nearest to Atowai, which is Oahoo, is five and twenty leagues. There is generally fome mifunderstanding between them, and, excepting for hostile purposes, the inhabitants rarely visit each other. But were we even to allow, that there is a frequent intercourse between them, which from the distance alone is highly improbable, yet it is hardly possible, that the disease should have spread so far, and so univerfally, as we found it at Ouwhyee, in the short space of time which intervened between our first and fecond visit to the Sandwich Islands. On the same suppofition, it will appear very extraordinary, that we should have found it more common by far at Ouwhyee than at Atowai, the place where we are supposed to have first left That this was the case, however, from my situation at that time, as furgeon of the Discovery, I am able to pronounce with some certainty. The priests pretended to be expert at curing it, and feemed to have an established mode of treatment; which by no means implied, that it was a recent complaint among them, much lefs that it was introduced only a few months before.



OBSERVATIONS, &c.

Whence, or at what time, the inhabitants of these islands received disease, or whether or not it be indigenous among them, is what I do not pretend even to guess: but from the circumstances above-mentioned, I think myself warranted in saying, that there are by no means sufficient proofs of our having sirst introduced it; but that, on the contrary, there is every reason to believe, that they were afflicted with it before we discovered those islands.



THE END.

